In the Matter Of:

Stacy L. Randall v. Reed C. Widen, et al.

Deposition of Ben C. Scharpf January 05, 2024



Excellence In Court Reporting

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1		Page: BEN C. SCHARPF, called as a
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN	2		witness, being first duly sworn, testified on
	3		oath as follows:
CTACV I DANDALI	4		EXAMINATION
STACY L. RANDALL,	5	BY	MR. MURPHY:
Plaintiff,	6	Q	Good afternoon, Mr. Sharpf.
-vs- Case No. 3:22-cv-00400-jdp	7	A	Good afternoon.
REED C. WIDEN, MICHAEL KIESLER,	8	Q	I introduced myself off the record, but my name is
WIDEN ENTERPRISES, LLC, and	9		Daniel Murphy. I'm one of the attorneys
WINDY WATERS, INC.,	10		representing Stacy Randall in a lawsuit that was
	11		filed against Reed Widen and other defendants.
Defendants.	12		We're here today for your deposition. Is it okay
	14	A	if I call you Ben? Of course.
Deposition of BEN C. SCHARPF,	15	0	Please feel free to call me Dan.
taken at the instance of the Plaintiff, under and	16	A A	Okay.
pursuant to Rules 26 and 30 of the Federal Rules of	17	0	Is this your first time being deposed?
Civil Procedure, before Kaila M. Macek, RMR, CRR,	18	A	Second.
	19	Q	Okay. How long ago was the last?
a Notary Public in and for the State of Wisconsin,	20	A	In 2018 when I was going through a divorce.
at Reinhart Boerner van Deuren S.C., located at	21	Q	Okay. This will probably be different.
44 East Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, Wisconsin,	22	A	I don't know that any of them are fun, so let's -
on January 5, 2024, commencing at 1:48 p.m. and	23	Q	I'm going to try.
concluding at 2:22 p.m.	24	A	All right.
	25	Q	No, it yeah, I would expect this to be very
Page 2	:-		Page
1 APPEARANCES 2	1		different. Couple of rules to go over that you're
3 REINHART BOERNER VAN DEUREN S.C., by	2		probably familiar with from that experience. Most
MR. DANIEL G. MURPHY and 4 MS. JESSICA H. POLAKOWSKI, via Zoom,	3		important one, we want to make Kaila's job easy.
1000 North Water Street, Suite 1700	4		I'll try not to talk over you. Please try to do
5 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 appeared on behalf of the Plaintiff.	5	_	the same. Okay?
6	6	A	Yes.
7 O'NEIL, CANNON, HOLLMAN, DeJONG & LAING S.C., by MR. CHRISTA D. WITTENBERG,	7	Q	Please verbalize your answers so that she can copy
8 111 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1400,	8 9	7	down what you're doing. Okay? Absolutely.
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, 9 appeared on behalf of the Defendants.	10	0	If you have any questions about what I'm asking
10	11	Q	you, whether it's a term or just the nature of the
11 12	12		question, what I'm looking for, please ask. Okay'
I N D E X	13	A	Yes.
13 Examination: Page	14	Q	If you answer, I'm going to assume you understood
14	15		what I said.
By Mr. Murphy 3	16	A	Okay.
16 EXHIBITS	17	Q	Is there any reason, medical condition, you don't
17 No. Description Identified 18 Exhibit 1 Defendants' Supplemental Rule 31	18		have to explain, but any reason you can't give
26(A)(1) Disclosures and Rule	19		testimony today?
19 26(A)(2) Disclosures 20	20	A	No.
21 (The original exhibit was attached to the original	21	Q	All right. If it comes to it, we'll take a break
transcript and a copy was provided to counsel) 22	22		Happy to take a break anytime you need one.
23	23	A	Okay.
24 (The original deposition transcript was filed with Attorney Daniel G. Murphy)	24	Q	My suspicion is we'll be out of here in an hour or
25	25		less, so hopefully we won't need that. I may take
	1		

		D 5			D 7
1		Page 5 a break to review my notes or consult with my	1	Q	Page 7 Sure. How much of an inconvenience it would be?
2		colleague, but again, if you need a break, just	2	Ā	Right. More along those lines. Yes.
3		ask. Okay?	3	Q	And same question with respect to your
4	A	All right.	4	~	conversation with Christa.
5	0	I don't know if Christa's going to have questions	5	A	Same, just what to be what to expect, not to
6	×	or not. At points in the deposition, she may	6		talk over each other.
7		assert an objection. If she objects, you still	7	Q	Okay.
8		have to answer the question. Okay?	8	ž A	Just general.
9	A	Yes.	9	0	At any point since you've received the subpoena,
10	0	And that's because she's not your attorney. The	10	×	did you discuss the nature of this case with
11	Q	only objections you can make in a deposition where	11		anyone?
12		somebody doesn't answer is on the basis of	12	A	No.
13		attorney-client privilege. Okay?	13	Q	Did you discuss your subpoena or today's
14	A	Okay.	14	Q	deposition with Reed Widen?
15	0	All right. Can you state and spell your name for	15	A	No.
16	Q	the record.	16	0	Okay.
17	A	Ben, B-E-N, C, as in Carl, Scharpf, S-C-H-A-R-P-F.	17	Q A	He knew I was called, but that was it.
18		And can you tell us your address?	18	0	How do you know that?
19	Q A	5025 Augusta Drive, Waunakee, Wisconsin 53597.	19	Q A	What?
1	A	What do you do for a living?	20		How do you know that?
20	Q	-		Q A	-
21	A	I am a entrepreneur, a business owner.	21 22	А	He just said I he apologized, and that was it.
22	Q	Okay. What kind of business?			Just sorry you have to go do this; I said no
23	A	I own a company called Gressco and a company	23	_	worries.
24	^	called Automation Arts.	24	Q	Was this via text?
25	Q	Okay.	25	A	No. Just a casual conversation.
		Dogo (D 0
1		Page 6			Page 8
1	A	And I am a shareholder in and a board member on	1	Q	Okay. So I guess, in my view, that would be
1 2	A	And I am a shareholder in and a board member on Musicnotes.	1 2	Q	~ I
1	A Q	And I am a shareholder in and a board member on Musicnotes. Okay. Any of those businesses well, you're		Q A	Okay. So I guess, in my view, that would be
2		And I am a shareholder in and a board member on Musicnotes.	2	~	Okay. So I guess, in my view, that would be about
2 3		And I am a shareholder in and a board member on Musicnotes. Okay. Any of those businesses well, you're familiar with Widen Enterprises? Yes.	2 3	A	Okay. So I guess, in my view, that would be about And that's why I'm sharing that.
2 3 4	Q	And I am a shareholder in and a board member on Musicnotes. Okay. Any of those businesses well, you're familiar with Widen Enterprises? Yes. Are any of those businesses and I apologize,	2 3 4	A Q	Okay. So I guess, in my view, that would be about And that's why I'm sharing that. Okay. Yes. Okay. Is there any other person who you had a
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1		Page 9			Page 11
1		question.	1	A	I think it was just as they, you know, navigated,
2	Q	Sure. I'm just trying to make sure I understood	2		you know, continuing to move from prepress to
3		your answer. What I heard you say was that she	3		digital asset management, kind of conversations
4		sold stock prior to the closing and there was	4		around, you know, do we how much of this do we
5	A	Prior to the closing of Reed's selling the	5		give up. It was more just general business, you
6		company.	6		know, kind of give and take kind of things.
7	Q	Okay. And then I thought you said, and I could be	7	Q	Okay.
8		wrong, that there was prior knowledge of that, and	8	A	I think we only had two meetings, and it was just
9		I didn't know what you meant by that.	9		generally around making sure I think Reed feeling
10	A	No, that my prior knowledge was that my prior	10		comfortable he was in a good spot.
11		knowledge to today was that that's the crux of the	11	Q	Okay. Do you have experience with I asked you
12		case, that she had sold stock in advance of Reed	12		about kind of the overlap between what you do and
13		selling the company, and that was the conflict.	13		Widen Enterprises. Do you have experience with
14	Q	I gotcha. I now follow. The reference to prior	14		companies that do digital asset management?
15		knowledge was that was your prior knowledge?	15	A	No.
16	A	Correct.	16	Q	Okay. And so I would assume, and I guess I'm
17	Q	Got it. Are you familiar with anyone else from	17		asking that your role on the committee the
18		Widen Enterprises? And I'll pitch some names out	18		reason you were selected for this advisory
19		there. Do you know Michael Kiesler?	19		committee is that you are an entrepreneur, you
20	A	I've met Michael Kiesler.	20		have experience growing businesses, I presume?
21	Q	In what context?	21	A	Yes.
22	A	I met him for a short period of time. It was the	22	Q	Okay. So that's your context for Michael Kiesler.
23		year Obama was elected. I went and I did a couple	23		Anything outside of that?
24		advisory meetings. He had a very loose advisory	24	A	No.
25		group put together, and he asked me to sit on	25	Q	Okay. What about Matthew Gonnering?
-		Page 10			Page 12
1		that.	1	A	He was also a part of that group. And I will see
2	Q	Okay.	2		Matthew out socially, but I don't have Matthew's
3	A	And I had met Michael through that.	3		number or talk to Matthew. I just would run into
4	Q	And okay. So Reed asked you to sit in on an	4		him. He's a member at Bishops Bay where I'm a
5		advisory committee?	5		member.
6	A	Clarence	6		To block a solf older
7	_	Correct.	1 -	Q	Is that a golf club?
1 .	Q	And you met Michael in that context?	7	Q A	Yes. I think he's just a social member.
8	Q A			~	
9	~	And you met Michael in that context?	7	A	Yes. I think he's just a social member.
1	Ä	And you met Michael in that context? Correct.	7 8	A Q	Yes. I think he's just a social member. Are you a big golfer?
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of a group of guys that you would fit into, 20 friend would have been	how did you and Reed meet?
	y clients, and our mutual
	Tim Macht.
21 including Bill Nordland, perhaps, and I'm going to 21 Q Okay.	
	KOWSKI: Hey, Dan, I should
	for the record that I'm
24 A I know his name. I don't know that I would know 24 on.	
25 him if we were especially out of context, I 25 MR. MURP.	HY: Good call.

1 SY MS. MERRY: 2 0 That's my colleague dessica Polakowski. She's 3 just going to be listening in. She's another 4 attorney for Stary. 5 A Okay. 6 0 The sorry, got thrown off. Baker Tilly. When 6 0 The sorry, got thrown off. Baker Tilly clients? 8 cornection that you were both Baker Tilly clients? 9 A 20 years ago. 10 0 Okay. And is Tim Macht a Baker Tilly employee? 11 Is that 12 A Me's a Baker Tilly client, as well. 11 0 And I guess I don't know, why is it that that was the commection? Were you at a Baker Tilly event. 15 or something? 16 A Tim and Reed were to Baker Tilly event, and then 17 or something? 18 A Tim And Reed were at a Baker Tilly event, and then 18 Is my friend Reed, I met him at a Baker Tilly 19 function. 10 Gottl. 10 A Me's a Me's a Me's a well. 11 a Me'll have fum. Pun friend group. 11 A Me'll have fum. Pun friend group. 12 O Gottch. How often would you say you hang out with Reed 18 Reed? 19 A Physically, four times a year. 10 C Okay. Let's day with that, I guess. Mat 19 becaming the Packers, we might text back and forth. Me've traveled with Reed on a the mutual a mutual firm a bout those trips. 10 C Okay. Ken you say out to his house. I've traveled with Reed on a the mutual a mutual firm a bout the ring leader being David Simon, what type of trips are thee? 10 C Nay. Me're Tacklhean trips. David would rent a boar and then invite a group of people to go down, and the Widens we there house of people to go down, and the Widens Startprise of that. The ring leader being David Simon, what type of trips are thee? 2 A Correct. He's out in the Bahamas. 2 C A Correct. He's out in the Bahamas. 2 A Pard Chat or got a specific of that, the Scharpfs would be part of that. 2 A Done of the ring leader being David Simon, what type of trips are thee? 3 A Son Correct. He's out in the Bahamas. 3 C Row Correct. He's out in the Bahamas. 3 C Row Correct. He's out in the Bahamas. 4 A Done of the ring leader being David is out on a hoat right that. 5 C C Row Correct. He's out in the Baha			Page 17			Page 19
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	ر کے	×	one . How many chines have you guys wone that	23	×	1144444

		Page 21			Page 23
1	A	February or March of 2021.	1	A	I don't know that he had a plan.
2	Q	Okay. And you don't have to give me every word,	2	Q	Okay.
3		but in general what did you discuss?	3	A	None that he shared with me.
4	A	Just that they were going to hire an investment	4	Q	Okay. And
5		bank, I think, to see what the value of it was	5	A	Not succession or other. I think he always
6		worth, is my understanding at that time.	6		intended to own it and have it for a long period
7	Q	Okay. And presumably he wanted to talk to you	7		of time and was taking it one day at a time.
8		about this because you've done so before?	8	Q	Okay. And did you ever have a discussion about
9	A	I think it was, again, very general discussion	9		his kids not wanting to
10		point. Just part of you're on a trip with	10	A	No.
11		somebody, so you're talking about life, and that	11	0	take on the business?
12		was one of the topics.	12	~	Do you know Justin Randall?
13	0	Okay. Was this on a Caribbean trip?	13	A	Yes.
14	A	Yes.	14	0	What's the context of your relationship with
15	0	And he was hiring an investment banker to assist	15	×	Justin?
16	×	with the sale. Did you discuss at all what he	16	A	I've known him I knew him through Reed a little
17		expected to sell the company for?	17		bit. He was also an insurance guy. I used to own
18	A	No.	18		a Culver's, and I think Justin took over that
19	0	Did you discuss any other detail that you recall	19		relationship, so he'd play golf a couple times
20	Q	regarding the anticipated sale?	20		with us.
21	A	No. I would take a step back. There was a time	21	Q	Okay.
22		when I was on Musicnotes' board, they were going	22	Q A	So I knew him casually. And if, you know, we were
23		through a similar thing. I was just thinking	23	A	up north, I would see him and he would be there.
24		about my direct businesses. But at one point in	24	Q	Okay.
25		time, Musicnotes had hired an investment banker,	25	∑ A	He and Julie.
			25		
1		Page 22 so there was just a little kind of mutual	1	0	Page 24 Okay. I want to start with the Culver's. Do you
2		connection there.		Q	
1	0		2 3	A	mean that Justin purchased a Culver's from you? No. Justin sold insurance to Culver's. Our
3	Q	Okay.	~	А	Culver's was a client of Justin's.
4	A	I understood the process because I had just went through it.	4	0	Understood.
5	0	5	5	Q	
6	Q	And what an investment bank can do in that type	6	A	But I didn't have I was not a controlling
7		of	7		partner, so my brother-in-law had that
8	A	I understood how kind of how the process	8		relationship with Justin.
9		worked.	9	Q	Okay.
10	Q	Sure. Other than that conversation, do you recall	10	A	I just knew he was our insurance guy.
11		any other time discussing a sale of Widen	11	Q	Got it. And then you mentioned up north?
12		Enterprises?	12	A	You know, we've been up north from time to time,
13	A	No.	13		whether we were staying at Simons or Widens or
14	Q	Other than a discussion with Reed, did you discuss	14		whatever, and then Justin would be up there. I
15		that with anybody else?	15		have many other friends that have places up there.
16	A	No.	16		So it wouldn't be uncommon for me to run past
17	Q	Okay. Did you ever talk to Reed about succession	17		Justin while we were up there.
18		planning at his business?	18	Q	Okay.
19	A	Not with any degree of detail outside of I think	19	A	Maybe five times in ten years, I'd cross paths
20		he hoped his kids would be involved at some time.	20		with him.
21	Q	And they weren't?	21	Q	Okay. Otherwise, you would see him when you were
22	A	I think Jesse worked there a little bit.	22		otherwise with Reed?
23	Q	I guess, was the discussion that Reed was hoping	23	A	Yes.
24		that his kids would take on the business when he	24	Q	And I think those were kind of the two exceptions
25		was ready to step back?	25		to knowing him through Reed that you offered;
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		Page 25			Page 27
1		right?	1		going into the office, I'm meting with Matthew or
2	Α	Correct.	2		I'm meeting with Kiesler.
3	0	Did you ever talk with Justin about I know I've	3	Q	Okay.
4	~	already asked you a general question, but in the	4	Ā	You know, I know he was kind of 24/7, you know,
5		event this jogs your memory, did you ever talk to	5		texts, talking to their team. I couldn't speak to
6		Justin about Widen Enterprises?	6		his work hours or
7	A	No.	7	\circ	When you say he was 24/7 texting, talking to his
8				Q	
1	Q	Did you ever talk to Justin about his relationship	8		team, how did why do you know that?
9		with Reed?	9	A	Again, I just you know, it's whatever time in
10	A	No. I would have made observations, but I've	10		the morning or if we're together and we're golfing
11		never spoken with Justin about his relationship	11		and Matthew would call, he would take that call.
12		with Reed.	12	Q	Okay.
13	Q	Okay. Fair to say you weren't always with Justin	13	A	And these would be more observations than
14		when he's with Reed?	14		anything, obviously.
15	A	No. Small percent of the time.	15	Q	Are you familiar with well, are you familiar
16	Q	Okay. Did you ever observe Justin and Reed talk	16		with the fact that Justin's brother Andrew
17		about Widen?	17		committed suicide?
18	A	No.	18	A	Yes.
19	Q	When did you learn about the sale of Widen?	19	Q	Are you familiar with the fundraiser to support
20	A	The first I had heard about the sale was on the	20		suicide awareness?
21		sailing trip in 2021.	21	A	Yes.
22	Q	I guess I'm asking the that the sale had	22	Q	Have you participated in that in the past?
23	~	happened.	23	A	I bought tickets to it this year.
24	Α	The only thing I knew is that Reed was, you know,	24	0	Okay. Had you done so previously?
25		selling it. That's sometime in that summer.	25	Ā	It was the first year was this year.
					To hab die 11150 year hab dirb year.
1		Page 26			
1 ,	_		_	0	Page 28
1	Q	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and	1	Q	Oh, was it?
2	~	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point?	2	A	Oh, was it? Yes.
2 3	Q A	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he	2 3		Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive
2 3 4	~	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it.	2 3 4	A	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we
2 3 4 5	~	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay.	2 3	A	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed
2 3 4	A	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it.	2 3 4	A	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we
2 3 4 5	A	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay.	2 3 4 5	A	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed
2 3 4 5 6	A Q A	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay. But not in any detail of what he sold it for or	2 3 4 5 6	A Q	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed about anything relating to Stacy?
2 3 4 5 6	A Q A	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay. But not in any detail of what he sold it for or Let me put it this way. Nothing sticks out in	2 3 4 5 6 7	A Q	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed about anything relating to Stacy? No.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	А	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay. But not in any detail of what he sold it for or Let me put it this way. Nothing sticks out in your mind about such a conversation?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	A Q	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed about anything relating to Stacy? No. Any brother
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	А Q A Q A Q Q	Did you catch up with Reed after the sale and discuss it at any point? I'm sure that my paths crossed with him and he expressed that he had sold it. Okay. But not in any detail of what he sold it for or Let me put it this way. Nothing sticks out in your mind about such a conversation? No. It would have been if I had said never, you would have said "never" never, and I would have known that's I'm sure, again, the crux of all of my friendships with my friends, we rarely talk about business. It's more about family and sports, and it just isn't a big part of any of my friendships, honestly. Okay. So you've talked about going on trips with Reed, hanging out up north with him. To your knowledge, was Reed retired when he was doing these things? No. And have you ever observed Reed serve on the advisory economy, so let's say after that, observed Reed working on Widen matters?	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	А Q A Q A Q Q A Q Q	Oh, was it? Yes. Oh. Have you ever talked to Reed and forgive me if we have covered this, but I don't think we specifically have did you ever talk to Reed about anything relating to Stacy? No. Any brother Again, I think we covered it. I know he was frustrated, you know, right at closing that I believe she was trying to hold it up, was my understanding, and he was frustrated. Outside of that, I spend time with them and I observed a good brother sister relationship. Why do you say that Stacy was holding up closing? Well, I think she was attempting to have an injunction, was my understanding. Okay. So legally trying to hold up closing? Correct. Did you discuss that with Reed? No. Just the day before, that he wasn't sure if it was going to I don't honestly remember the exact specifics outside of, you know, maybe the

		Page 29			Page 31
1	Q	Okay.	1	Q	Okay.
2	A	I mean, it was a big, big deal to him.	2		(Exhibit No. 1 was marked for
3	Q	So you knew when the deal closed?	3		identification.)
4	Α	I just don't remember I knew it was in the	4	Q	And you don't need to read this entire thing.
5		summer sometime. I don't remember.	5		Exhibit 1 is a filing in this case by the
6	Q	I understand. So your earlier answer was just you	6		defendants, and it's basically a number of
7	~	don't know the specific date in summer of 2021?	7		different disclosures. What I want to direct your
8	A	Correct.	8		attention to is page 5. Do you see your name next
9	0	But you were aware that the sale was proceeding as	9		to number 27?
10	×	it was proceeding?	10	A	Yep.
11	A	No. I knew he had talked to like I said, we		0	Is that your phone number?
1	А		11	~	
12		were on, you know, if you think of the cadence of	12	A	Yes.
13		when we would talk, I knew that in February or	13	Q	And the purpose of this disclosure is to identify
14		March, they were mulling it, and then I didn't	14		individuals who may have relevant knowledge. And
15		really know I wasn't keeping track of that	15		it says here, next to your name, "Mr. Scharpf may
16		process up through a closing date. I knew they	16		have information about the existence and timing of
17		had engaged an investment bank, and then just a	17		communication with Reed Widen or Justin Randall
18		day or two before I knew that it was going to	18		related to any potential sale of Widen
19		close.	19		Enterprises."
20	Q	Okay. So that latter part is what I'm trying to	20		My question is, is there anything that we
21		figure out, how that came about. So at some point	21		haven't discussed that might relate to that
22		near closing, and I'll represent to you that the	22		information, meaning is there any other
23		closing was in August of 2021.	23		communication with Reed or Justin related to any
24		MS. WITTENBERG: Object to form.	24		potential sale that we haven't already covered?
25		MR. MURPHY: That's fine.	25	A	No.
_	DII	Page 30	_	0	Page 32
1		MR. MURPHY:	1	Q	Okay. I need a couple of minutes, and then I'll
2	Q	If she objects, you still answer. How did that	2	_	probably be done.
3		conversation with you and Reed begin around the	3	A	Okay.
4		time of closing?	4		(A recess is taken from 2:21 p.m. to 2:22 p.m.)
5	A	You know, could have been talking about whether we	5	Q	I don't have any further questions. Thank you for
6		were going to play golf next week and then, by the	6		your time, Ben.
7		way, this is what's happening in my life today,	7	A	You bet. Thank you.
8		because it was germane to him.	8		MS. WITTENBERG: Nothing from me.
9	Q	Okay. And it's in the context of that discussion,	9		(Adjourning at 2:22 p.m.)
10		whatever it was, that he mentioned that there	10		
11		might be an issue related to Stacy?	11		
12	A	Correct.	12		
13	Q	Okay. Any other details about that conversation	13		
14	~	you recall?	14		
15	A	No. Just that he was, you know, frustrated, I'm	15		
16	-1	sure.	16		
17	0	Do you have an opinion about this case?	17		
1	Q A				
18	A	I don't know enough about it to give a good	18		
19	^	opinion.	19		
20	Q	Okay. And I guess another way of saying that is	20		
21		do you have an opinion as to who's right, Reed or	21		
22		Stacy?	22		
23	A	I don't know enough about the case to I don't	23		
24		know Stacy's side of the case, and frankly I don't	24		
25		know Reed's side of the case.	25		
1			1		

	a C. Widen, et al.	5 anuary 05, 2027
1	Page 3	3
_) ss.	
2	COUNTY OF DANE)	
3		
4	I, Kaila M. Macek, RMR, CRR, a Notary Public in	
5	and for the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify	
6	that the foregoing deposition of BEN C. SCHARPF was	
7	taken before me on January 5, 2024, and reduced to	
8	writing by me, a professional court reporter and	
9	disinterested person, approved by all parties in	
10	interest and thereafter converted to typewriting	
11	using computer-aided transcription.	
12	I further certify that I am not related to nor	
13	an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the	
14	action, nor am I in any way financially interested in	
15	the outcome of this case.	
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand	
17	and affixed my notarial seal of office at Madison,	
18	Wisconsin, this 10th day of January 2024.	
19	_	
20	Kaila Chacel	
21	- Tuck - Tuck	
	Notary Public, State of Wisconsin	
22	My Commission Expires 1/14/2027	
23		
24		
25		
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